

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement drawing sheet amends Figure 5. This replacement sheet, which includes Figures 2 and 5, replaces the previous sheet including Figures 2 and 5.

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4 are amended, and claims 6-8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, and that therefore prosecution as to and on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*.

As stated above claims 6-8, which were not elected in the application, are canceled, such that allowed claims 1-5 remain.

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to. In response, it is noted that the Figure 5 is labeled as "Conventional Art." It is submitted that this label is in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(g) and 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d). However, to expedite allowance of the application, as shown in the attached replacement sheet, Figure 5 is labeled "Prior Art." It is therefore requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 4 are also objected to because of informalities. In response, the claims are amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/785,014
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340